

Automatic Export of PubMed Citations to EndNote®

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ABSTRACT. The export of MEDLINE references to EndNote® can be accomplished in various ways. Unlike Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed does not have a direct export feature to EndNote. Until recently, PubMed references had to be saved as a text file to import into EndNote. Now, the automatic export of PubMed references can be done using Internet Explorer (IE) or Mozilla Firefox Web browsers. The development and teaching of seamless citation management is a value-added service to health professionals.

KEYWORDS. Citation exporting, EndNote, Ovid MEDLINE, PubMed, Web browsers

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INTRODUCTION

The National Library of Medicine's PubMed

<<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed>> interface for searching MEDLINE and other related databases offers over 19 million records. MEDLINE is the leading source of online biomedical literature citations for medical professionals.^{1, 2} Health professionals and other users who search MEDLINE via PubMed frequently wish to download citations into a local database. EndNote® is a database management program widely used by health professionals.³ EndNote captures and formats bibliographic data in over 3,600 bibliographic formats. It runs on both Windows and Macintosh platforms. EndNote interfaces with Microsoft Word through EndNote's "Cite While You Write," a significant feature for health professionals and others who wish to import references into manuscripts. For more information on EndNote, see the company Web site at <<http://www.endnote.com/>>.⁴

The standard method of capturing citations from PubMed has been to save them as a text file for later importation into a user's local EndNote database. Users who access MEDLINE via Ovid, however, can export citations directly into EndNote via Ovid's Direct Export feature. Now, like Ovid MEDLINE, there is a method to automatically export citations from PubMed into EndNote. PubMed users will find this new option to be a simple, timesaving breakthrough. The key is in the proper setup of one's Web browser. This article provides directions for setting up Microsoft's Internet Explorer® to export citations directly from PubMed into EndNote.

WEB BROWSER SETTINGS

Internet Explorer (IE) and Mozilla Firefox browsers both support automatic export of PubMed references to EndNote. Both browsers are available for Microsoft (MS) Windows Operating Systems (OS) XP, Vista, and Windows 7. IE is the default Internet browser for Microsoft OS.⁵ Mozilla Firefox, reputedly more secure than IE⁶, can be used on both Microsoft and Macintosh platforms. Since Firefox versions 3.0 and above are already configured for automatic export, only IE reconfiguration will be discussed here. For automatic export, IE 7 and 8 require an adjustment to their default settings. Older versions of IE do not have this capability. These processes are simple enough to include in a workshop or a one-on-one interaction.

Browser Configuration

To configure IE version 7 in Windows XP:

- Go to Start
- Choose Control Panel
- Choose Folder Options
- Select File Types tab
- Under Registered File Types scroll down and choose txt
- At Open With, click Change
- In Open With box, find the EndNote folder and choose EndNote.exe
- Click OK

To configure IE version 7 in Vista or Windows 7:

- Open IE 7

- Click Tools on Menu Bar
- Click Internet Options
- Select the Programs Tab (see Figure 1)
- On the lower right side click Set Program
- Select “Associate a file type or protocol with a program” (see Figure 2)
- Highlight .txt file option and click the “change program...” tab (see Figure 3)
- Select EndNote program (see Figure 4)
- Click OK
- EndNote is now selected for .txt editor (see Figure 5)
- Close Internet Options

[PLACE FIGURE 1 HERE]

Legend: FIGURE 1. Internet Options

[PLACE FIGURE 2 HERE]

Legend: FIGURE 2. Default Programs

[PLACE FIGURE 3 HERE]

Legend: FIGURE 3. Set Associations

[PLACE FIGURE 4 HERE]

Legend: FIGURE 4. Recommended Programs

[PLACE FIGURE 5 HERE]

Legend: FIGURE 5. Associate File Type with Specific Program

For those using IE version 8 in Windows XP, the settings are as follows*:

- Locate any text file (.txt) file on the computer, or create one
- Right click on txt file icon
- Select Open With
- Go to Choose Programs
- Highlight EndNote
- Check box (Always use selected program to open file)
- Click on OK
- This causes all text files to be opened by EndNote

*Note: if Notepad is needed, reverse the steps to make Notepad the default to open text files. If

Notepad is used regularly for other applications, the default change is not recommended.

Users with administrative rights to the computer can also configure IE version 8 in XP using the following method:

- Go to Start
- Choose Control Panel
- Choose Folder Options
- Select File Types tab
- Under Registered File Types scroll down and choose txt
- Choose Advanced at the bottom of the page
- In Edit File Type menu choose Open and then Edit

- Under Application Used to Perform Action, browse to Programs Folder on hard drive
- Find the EndNote folder and choose EndNote.exe
- (It will look something like this... “C:\Program Files\EndNote X2\EndNote.exe”)
- Click OK

Users with administrative rights to the computer can use the following method to configure IE version 8 in Vista or Windows 7:

- Go to Start
- Choose Default Programs
- Choose “Associate a file type or protocol with a program”
- Highlight txt in the menu window
- Click Change Program
- Choose EndNote
- Click OK

Using the Configured IE Browser with PubMed

In PubMed, do the following:

- Select references
- Click Send To
- Choose File
- Change format to MEDLINE
- Click Create File

- Choose Open
- Choose the PubMed filter in EndNote

DISCUSSION

Many health professionals use PubMed and EndNote, most often with IE, which is the most used Web browser today. Since the more recent versions of IE allow for the automatic export from PubMed to EndNote, this simpler method should be taught to health professionals.

With the various operating systems, browsers, and MEDLINE providers available, users should be made aware of their options. They can then choose the best way to accomplish automatic citation export. Similarly, librarians need to know the options for their office computers and computer labs. Librarians also need to be knowledgeable about the possible configurations when troubleshooting citation export problems.

Firefox is configured for automatic export, so PubMed users should be informed of this capability. However, Firefox is often not the browser used by the majority of workshop participants. Because IE is the predominant browser and is most commonly used by the audience, it is important to use it for Internet access when teaching workshops. The one-time adjustment to the IE default is worth teaching because the simplified method will be easier to learn and apply.

A change in the IE default can also create difficulties, so it is important to understand the consequences. Notepad is the IE default to open text files. If the default is modified to EndNote, it will open all text files. This can be unexpected and cause confusion, especially days or months after the change has been made. If a text file is encountered that needs to be opened in a program

other than EndNote, reverse the steps outlined above to once again make Notepad the default text file application. As mentioned earlier, if Notepad is needed regularly for opening text files in other applications, this option of changing the IE default is not recommended.

At times health personnel may need an alternative to their usual citation export routine. They frequently use equipment and Internet services in different geographic locations, whether local or international. The teaching and troubleshooting of citation management is a value-added service to health professionals.

Many health professionals who have access choose to search MEDLINE using Ovid's user-friendly interface and sophisticated features. PubMed has made advances that compete well with Ovid's interface for MEDLINE. The automatic export of PubMed citations to EndNote is one more important refinement of the process that makes PubMed more appealing as the first choice of MEDLINE provider.

In tough economic times, librarians should be aware of software enhancements related to PubMed when formulating their budgets. Some MEDLINE vendors have hefty annual costs. Access to PubMed via the Internet is free of charge.

The seamless export of citation information from MEDLINE to EndNote is part of a well-designed health knowledge management system. With IE's recent enhancements, the PubMed interface is now more like other interfaces that offer direct export.

SUMMARY

Internet Explorer versions 7 and 8 can be used on multiple Windows platforms to automatically export references from PubMed to EndNote, while the preconfigured Mozilla Firefox is the best

choice for Macintosh users. The key for Windows users is in the Internet Explorer browser setup. Helping health professionals customize Internet browser settings for automatic export of citations from PubMed to EndNote is a value-added service. Librarians need to be aware of their current alternatives to provide the best service for the cost.

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FIGURE 1. Internet options.

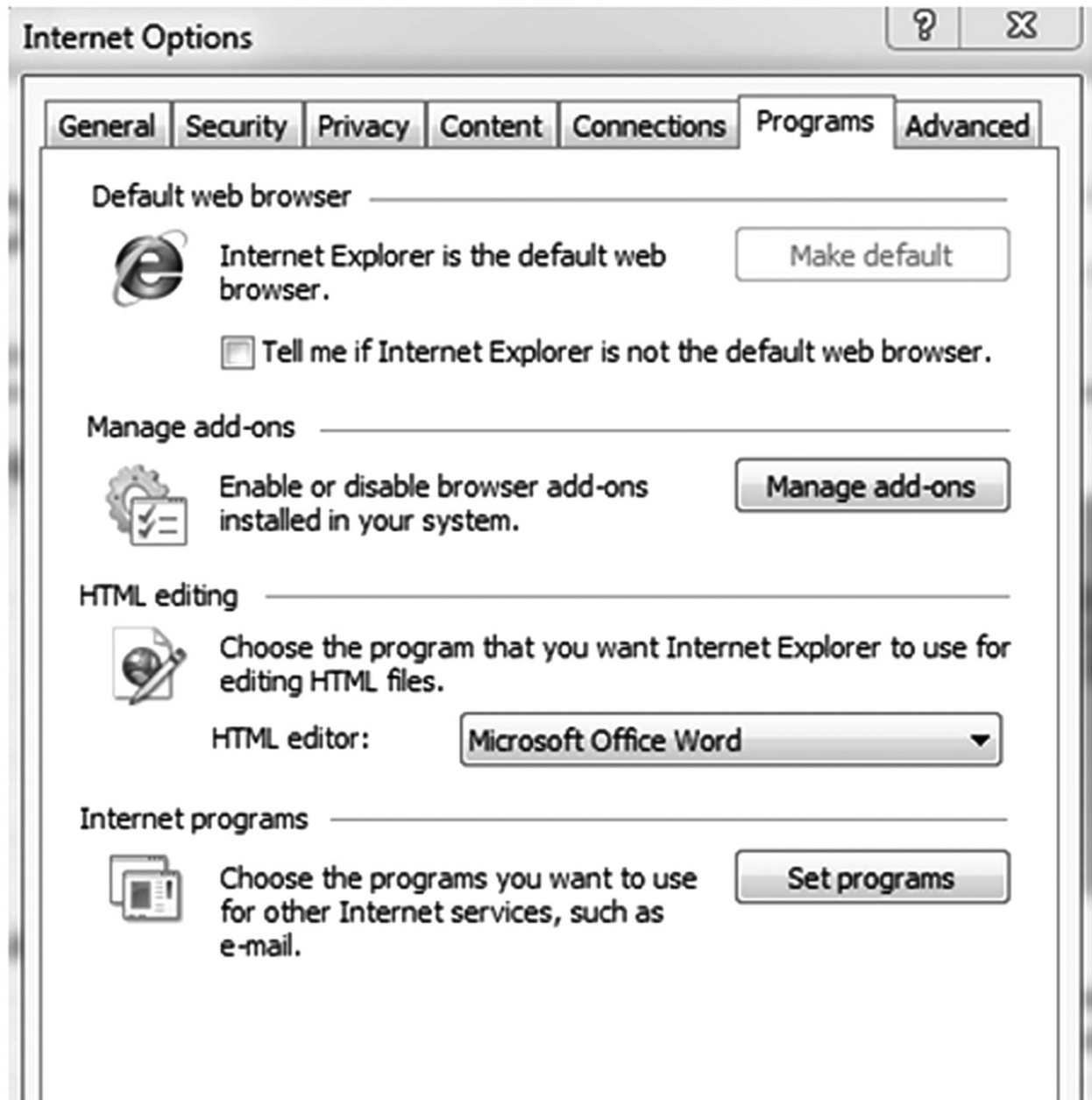


FIGURE 2. Default programs.

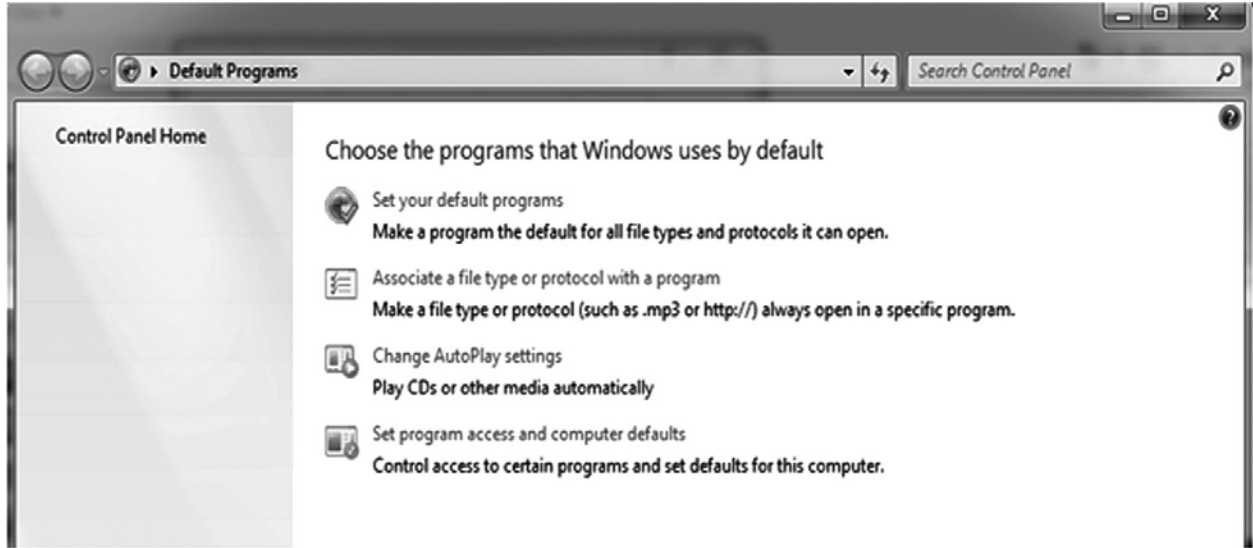


FIGURE 3. Set associations.

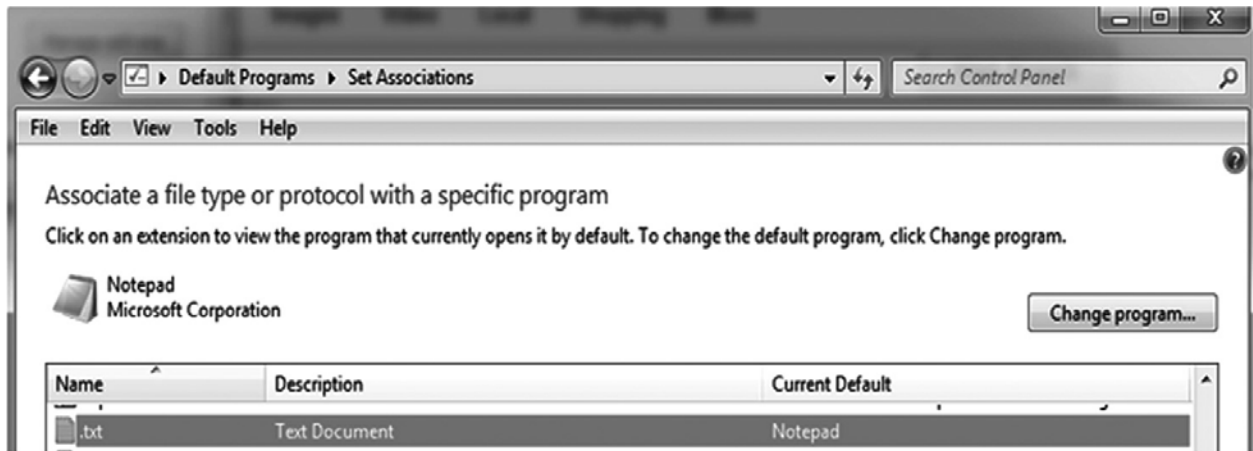


FIGURE 4. Recommended programs.

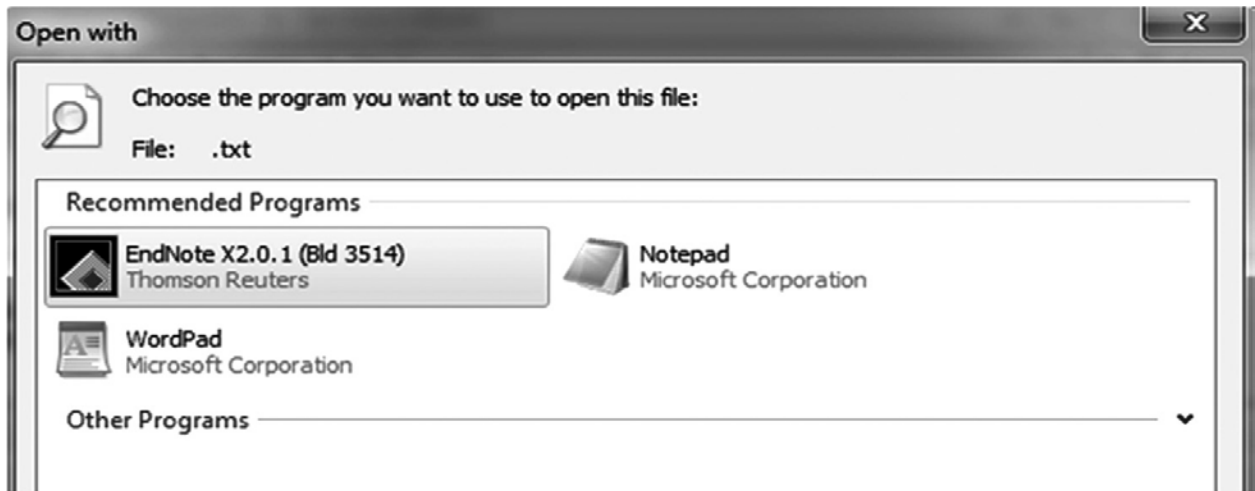


FIGURE 5. Associate file type with specific program.

